

Octagon School House
Whites Valley, Pennsylvania.

HABS No. Pa. 228

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Reduced Copies of Historical Drawings
PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Pennsylvania

Historic American Buildings Survey
Ralph W. Lear, District Officer,
311-312 Dime Bank Bldg., Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

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COTLOCK SCHOOL
Whites Valley, Wayne County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner

Daughters of the American Revolution.

Date of Erection

1840

Present Condition

Fair. No departure from original state ~~except trim.~~

Number of Stories

One story, one room.

Materials of Construction

Stone foundations, stone walls, wood shingle
Hip roof; one wooden door.

OCTAGON SCHOOL
Whites Valley, Wayne County, Pennsylvania

Whites Valley, situated four miles south of Pleasant Mt., was named for Ezekiel White, who came from Massachusetts in 1819 and settled in the valley in 1837. This village is situated in a deep dell with steep hills rising on three sides.

The Octagon School House was built in 1840. It has but one room, and is octagon shaped. Classes were conducted in the school house until 1928, when they were discontinued, because of its dilapidated condition.

It was restored by the Wayne Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution; and a bronze tablet was placed on the door by that organization, which follows: "This School House was built in 1840 and used for school purposes until 1928. Restored in 1931, by the Wayne Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The common school is the corner stone of the nation."

The building is now in very poor condition, but is in a fairly good state of preservation, considering that it has been in constant use for so many years. It has stone foundations with eighteen inch stone walls. The ceiling and side walls were originally plastered, but are now covered with wood ceiling material. There are six windows, each broken into twenty small lights, and protected by wooden shutters. The window sashes are wood. There is one door with the original hardware. The floor is modern yellow pine. The roof was originally wood, but it is now covered with wood shingles.

A wooden post, 5" x 5" in the center of the room, supports the ceiling. There is a brick chimney supported from the ceiling by iron straps, near the center of the building. A hand made log burning stove formerly supplied the heat.

The original wood benches are placed around the sides of the room. These were plain wood benches nailed directly to the side wall. The wall formed the back. A wooden platform at the rear of the room, supported the teacher's chair. Directly behind this platform, are six, 1x10" boards, painted black. This portion of the wall served as the blackboard.

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Date...August 1936
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